The KINGBIRD

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FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

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PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

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APPLICATION for membership should be sent to the chairman of the membership committee:

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FIFTH ANNUAL FEDERATION MEETING

Schenectady — May 24 and 25, 1952

Twenty-five clubs distributed through New York State, representing approximately 3,000 members, now belong to the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Miss Audrey L. Wrede, membership committee chairman, reported at the Fifth Annual Council Meeting of the Federation, held at the Edison Club, Schenectady, May 24, 1952.

The following new clubs were voted into the Federation:

Bedford Audubon Society (Bedford, N. Y.)
Naturalists' Club (Binghamton, Endicott, Johnson City)
Onondaga Audubon Society (Syracuse)
Staten Island Bird and Nature Club
Sullivan County Audubon Society

More than 50 applications for individual membership were also accepted.

Sixteen organizations, with 24 delegates, answered the roll call of member clubs when President Eugene Eisenmann called the meeting to order at 9:50 a. m. Incidentally, total registration of members and guests for the general meeting and dinner was 161. All officers and committee chairmen registered, and all committees met Friday or early Saturday.

New Membership Classes

Unanimous adoption was given the amendment to Chapter 1, Section 6, of the By-Laws. It was previously sanctioned by two-thirds vote of member clubs. The amendment reads:

> "There shall be six classes of Individual Members whose rights and privileges shall be the same except for a difference in dues: Annual Members, dues $2 per year; Sustaining Members, $5 per year; Supporting Members, dues $10 per year; Life Members, dues $100 payable at one time; Patrons, dues $500 payable at one time; Founders, dues $1,000 payable at one time. For those classes of members paying annual dues, such dues shall be payable on March 1st of each year, except in the year of election to membership, when such dues shall be payable one month after notice of election."

Conservation Liaison

An engineer has been appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Works to act as liaison officer between the Department and a committee representing the State Conservation Council, Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Federation of Garden Clubs, Izaac Walton League, and others.

H. Everest Clements, 1116 Sibley Tower Building, Rochester, was appointed to represent the Federation on this committee. Clubs with local problems having to do with the State Department of Public Works should contact Mr. Clements to present their case to the committee.

Samuel Madison, Conservaion Committee chairman, presented the committee report and urged the clubs to follow through on Conservation Bulletins with letters to Albany. His report on legislative matters showed real progress.

The Bald Eagle has been given partial protection in Alaska. A resolution was adopted commending Oscar Chapman, Secretary of the Interior, for this order, while expressing hope full protection will be forthcoming.

Howard Cleaves described the destruction of Staten Island ponds which are being used as garbage dumps by the New York City Sanitary Commission. The council passed a motion opposing such dumps. A like resolution was adopted concerning a similar situation near Buffalo.

State Book Needed

There is need for a new State Bird Book, it was reported by the committee which has been studying this subject. The present thinking of the committee is that several editors should handle different phases of the work, such as ecological data, migration, breeding-bird data, etc. Subcommittees were named to undertake studies of: (1) a basis for regional division of the state; (2) methods of reporting, and standards of censorship, of reports; and (3) the mechanics of handling the material and contacting the clubs. Each member club was asked to name a representative to serve as a contact for this committee, which is headed by Dr. Gordon M. Meade, Trudeau Sanitorium, Trudeau, N. Y.

Success of *The Kingbird* depends on individual memberships in the Federation, Allan Klonick, editor, pointed out in a report read at the meeting by President Eisenmann. Discussion of the content and format disclosed general satisfaction in the present plan of publication. Contribution of articles, including those of popular interest, was sought.

A Baedeker of Birding Areas in New York State was urged by Miss Hazel Ellis, Publications and Research Committee chairman. Local clubs were asked to submit maps and check-lists for their own territories; seven clubs reported progress on this subject. Miss Ellis also urged delegates to arrange for copies of club publications to be mailed to her.

Officers Elected

The slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee was unanimously elected for 1953:

President — Eugene Eisenmann, the Linnaean Society of New York.
Vice Pres. — Harold D. Mitchell, Buffalo Ornithological Society.
Corr. Sec. — Miss Louise Helfer, Watkins-Montour Bird Club.
Rec. Sec. — Mrs. Frances Irving, Rockland Audubon Societp.
Treasurer — Mrs. William G. English, Sassafras Bird Club.

Miss Hazel Ellis, Robert Arbib, Jr., and Dr. Neil Moon were elected to the nominating committee; the Council unanimously recommended that the committee govern its selections entirely on the basis of ability, without regard to club or district representation.

Winston W. Brockner and Guy Bartlett were named auditors. The "where and when" for the next annual meeting will be decided later by the Federation officers. The Council meeting was adjourned at 1 p. m.

ALBERT FUDGE, Recording Secretary

CONVENTION WILL BE HELD AT BEAR MOUNTAIN PARK

MAY 23-24, 1953 Host: ROCKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

HUMAN INFLUENCES ON GRAND ISLAND BIRD LIFE

ARTHUR E. SCHAFFNER

Grand Island — easily accessible, strategically located, is a focal point for birding in Western New York. Though other areas are being extensively worked, this particular area still produces 15% of the noteworthy records, this fact being ascertained from the *Buffalo Ornithological Society's* publication *The Prothonotary*. These reasons alone cause us to be interested in the human influences that have markedly affected it's birding potential.

It is remarkable that the island area produces such a large percentage of worthwhile records, for in the last five years, an increase in observers and the intensified study of other areas to the South has no doubt affected its proficiency. Previous to that, it produced approximately 30% of the noteworthy records in this area between the year 1935 and 1945.

Before we enter into some of the effects that have produced these results, it would be wise to describe the island itself. It's ideal location in the Niagara River, largest of the group of island there, is one of its predominent features. The building of bridges to the island has made it an integral link of communication between large cities of Buffalo and Niagara Falls. This fact alone has had tremendous effect upon the island's wild life and its future potential. Topographically, it is well suited for balanced bird life, having woods of varying sizes, fields, creeks, swampy and brushy areas; besides small settlements and villages. From tip to tip, it is a little over 8 miles in length, and an average width of 4½ miles. It's 17,336 acres was once covered with 15,000 acres of prime forest. Most of the forest being White Oak, it was used for the building of boats.

It's population, not more than 600 some 20 years ago, has grown to 4000. The transition from a primeval forest, thence to an agricultural community and again changing to a residential township, is almost as interesting as its effects on the island's bird life. These effects, principally, were the depletion of the forests, its growth as rural land, then lastly, in recent years, the erection of both bridges and the resulting road network. It's growth as a residential area, though playing an important part, will have its greatest effect in the next quarter of a century.

The passing of the forests, subsequently produced large field areas, which in turn introduced many new field birds. Clearing of the land, presaged the growth of agriculture and both being caused by human agency, they therefore exerted a wide influence on birdlife. In the early days, the island supported Wild Turkeys; also it was extensive enough to contain three or more pairs of Bald Eagles and other large birds. They, of course, went with the forests. Unfortunately, there is little information available for this early period. At that time it was not so accessible and there were few who left behind any data related to it's bird life. Yet this change from the primeval, which ushered in the agricultural growth brought about a decided effect.

Therefore, we will deal with more recent times, particularly the past twenty-five years. It is to be noted that though a rural community at this time, the Island still was in a wild, relatively undisturbed state. At that

time the population of waterfowl, herons and rails, was higher in the Burnt Ship Creek area. In general, land birds were found in higher proportion, possible even seen in greater variety then. For instance, Purple Finches and Long-eared Owls were easier to find on a day's field trip; whereas, the Bobolink was more prevalent then, probably because of good hay fields. Although Shrikes move in during the winter season because of the availability of rodent and numerous hawthorne patches, they were seen in greater numbers then because of a more undisturbed habitat. This will be reflected more in the growth to a residential area.

This information is from the observations of two of our outstanding field students, Harold D. Mitchell and Clark S. Beardslee. I wish to picture the area then through their eyes. Great changes took place in the Buckhorn and Beaver Island areas, during those years. Both these sites were naturally suited for birdlife, being undisturbed, extensive, and with varying habitat within their confines conducive to good birding. Bald Eagles and Vultures were seen more often at Buckhorn—Burn Chip Creek area than now, and the land birds were found in higher numbers. Geese were also often seen in the fields adjacent to this area. In 1932, the government, in order to give men work, had them destroy great brush areas here, thus reducing cover and food, having a marked effect on its wild inhabitants. Later two camps were built here, one following the other, reducing the quality of this once fine natural habitat. Beaver Island suffered the same, when it was trimmed for a park site. This spot also has a beach area and in recent years, the bridge and roads have drawn large crowds to it in summer, thus reducing its effectiveness during that season.

At that time there were no bridges or good roads, and the island was reached only by ferry, with the result that bird students visited it less often than they do now. Thus the island maintained a rural population of only around five hundred, who are less detrimental to nature than an urban community. These facts, despite the agricultural aspect, still left the land more conducive to wildlife populations. Being less accessible then, the fewer bird reports turned in from Grand Island have often been misleading.

Actually, the decline of agriculture has caused a decided effect in introducing new varieties of birdlife to the island. This can readily be seen in the movement of Winged Predators to the island and the increase of field species which appeared after the era of forest depletion. When the once cultivated lands, reverted to nature, they still were fertile enough to produce the plant life that is necessary to support a large field mouse population. Soon an increase in the nocturnal and diurnal predators was evident. Short Eared Owls can be seen here in numbers of 15-20 around dusk during Spring and Fall. They have even summered. Marsh Hawks can now be seen here in good numbers now that meadow and field mice are available for their support. They are a welcome control on the rodent population. There are more open areas now which are attractive to the Red-tailed Hawk. To some degree these birds have all acclimated themselves to human civilization and have thrived. This may be due to the islanders' realization that these predators have a wholesome effect on the island's wildlife. The Great Horned Owl seems to have maintained a stable number over the years and have adjusted themselves well in the woodlots, which are often almost

totally surrounded by field land. In 1948, Anderle and Gamble found 8 nests out of a possible 14 nesting sites. This is around 57% and no doubt has been a stable percentage. One thing of note that they have observed, is that the Great Horned Owl is just maintaining its numbers rather than increasing. They make these deductions from the breeding results. Although the nests had from 2 to 3 eggs, only one young reached maturity in most of the cases. There remains also the factor of a river barrier, which has kept down an influx of mammalian predators, allowing a greater food supply for the winged hunters.

Field birds would not be prevalent at all if the land had not been cleared, thus producing within time, the habitat in which they are found. Such birds as Upland Plovers, Meadowlarks, Prairie Horned Larks, Vesper and Savannah Sparrows have since established themselves. At present they still have the necessary open lands which support them. If the reversion of the tilled land had not occurred, and produced the natural habitat, these particular species would not enjoy the numbers we see there now. The Bobolink is one of the few which has been reduced in numbers. Dr. Axtell pointed out that this is chiefly due to the present scarcity of hay crops. Bluebirds which are found in the brush and field areas have increased here also. They will probably do so until the urban population grows and drives them out. A good deal of this information would not have come to light, if the erection of bridges to the island had not afforded us greater accessibility to the island.

This lastly has introducer to the island a new era, that of the growth of the island as a residential area. This would not have been possible without the bridges and the subsequent road arteries which opened all parts of the island to us. The next ten years will show us the effect that this will have, if the growth of the villages does not slack off. Of the residential aspect, we would prefer the estate rather than the settlement. The estates have even contributed in that they have trimmed their woodlots, but have not decimated them. This has left desirable habitat for the Red-headed Woodpecker. We cannot say the same for State Parks, particularly Beaver Island, where they have cut the woods down indiscriminately to secure fire wood. Without a doubt, this has caused the Woodpeckers to move from this area to that of the estates.

We must consider also the type of settlement. Sandy Beach at the north end is altogether different from Grandyle Village. So is their birdlife and its density. At Sandy Beach, the houses are individually characteristic and the people have left small wood lots, and brushy areas amongst the settlement. They have also planted shrubs and trees, of which the latter are chiefly coniferous. In these I have found owl pellets attesting that they give cover to these birds. Cardinals can be found in a small park area here. Short-eared Owls, Marsh Hawks, even Bald Eagles are seen flying about the perimeter of this settlement, while the Great Horned Owl nests in one of the woods close by. Land birds such as Jays, Chickadees, etc., are found in fair numbers in and around this suburban area. Unfortunately the opposite is the case in the Grandyle Village area. I have noticed the graphic change here after my sojourn in the Army. This particular section, previous

to my itinerary supported only a few houses. Meadowlarks and Bluebirds were fairly numerous in the field areas, while in the Fall season, large flocks of Horned Larks could be seen. It was usual to see some Buteo or Harrier flying about this area when descending the south bridge to the island proper. Now either they are not to be seen, or else their numbers have been drastically reduced. This form of communal residence could have an undesirable effect, if it were to spread. I would like to point out though, that it is well for us that they chose this site for the village rather than other sections which are even more favorable to birding.

There are a few encouraging aspects. The township has ordinances against the building of large manufacturing concerns and they intend to abide by this policy. The lack of railroad facilities also strengthen our hopes here. There is zoning for light industry, but none which would cause undesirable results. There once was a social contact between bird students and islanders which probably has produced results. With proper guidance this could be recultivated and nourished; thus standing us in good stead in the years to come. We could do considerable good if we could establish a small group of bird students there. These possibilities can have a good counter effect among the growing residential populace.

It is regrettable that the island is no longer primeval, but the effects of human influence have had favorable results. We are in possession of a reasonable picture of the future and the means whereby we may cause it yet to be bright as regards birding.

Acknowledgments to Messrs. Dr. H. H. Axtell, Harold D. Mitchell, Clark S. Beardslee, Edward L. Seeber, Bernard Nathan, Donald Gamble, and Daniel McNamee, Town Supervisor of Grand Island. I wish to thank them for giving so generously of ideas, information and moral support.

KINDLY MENTION

THE KINGBIRD

WHEN

WRITING ADVERTISERS

SYNOPSIS OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT FIFTH ANNUAL FEDERATION MEETING

A wide variety of interests were covered in the series of ten papers and two dinner talks presented at the Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Federation, held Saturday afternoon and evening, May 24. Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, Professor of Biology at State College, Albany, presided as program chairman of the afternoon session.

Beaver Meadow

Western New York has a new Audubon sanctuary, the Beaver Meadow Wildlife Refuge. It was described by W. H. Almendinger of *Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc.* He related the circumstances which led to the acquisition of the property, told about some of the plans for the future, and reported on the flora and fauna as recorded during the first sanctuary year.

Verdi Burtch Memorial

There are questions and problems when a club becomes a sanctuary owner and operator. Francis H. Orcutt of *Keuka Park Conservation Club* pointed out. About a year ago the club purchased the marsh in back of the Verdi Burtch residence at Branchport, and established it as a sanctuary. Clubs contemplating similar acquisitions will find considerable help in the complete paper as presented by Mr. Orcutt.

Gull Populations

Gulls of the St. Lawrence and of Lake Ontario have been under observation for years; John D. Belknap of *North Country Bird Club* has been one of the prime movers in these studies. He has previously reported on his findings, both at Federation meetings and in the pages of *The Kingbird*. In this paper Mr. Belknap briefly reviewed the history of the breeding gulls, Ring-billed and Herring, in northeastern Lake Ontario. Four islands are the principal colony sites, and the nesting Ring-billed Gulls are really concentrated on them. Mr. Belknap described the method used in making population counts, and pointed out the limitations; counts from May, 1950, to date were presented. His paper also dealt with the feeding habits in northern New York, and with the winder distribution of the species in eastern United States.

Bird-Banding

Thirty-nine Baltimore Orioles were banded in two seasons at Bird Haven by Mrs. Gerald Fitzgerald of *Sassafras Bird Club*. Twelve hundred Evening Grosbeaks were banded there during the 1951-1952 winter, she reported. Records of returns and of "foreigners", observations concerning changes in plumage and in color of the beak, evidence of territorialism, and activities during mating season were among the items included in Mrs. Fitzgerald's talk, as well as the history of Snowball, an albino robin.

Tape Recordings

Many of those at the afternoon meeting heard a bird song with which they were not familiar; others found it possible to identify the bird readily. The bird had been singing at Rochester earlier this year. It was a Western Meadowlark, so like the eastern species in appearance but so different in

voice. Again, the audience was asked to contribute some imitations of bird songs. They did, and moment later were able to listen to their imitations. John Blackmer and Reginald W. Hartwell of *Genesee Ornithological Society* were demonstrating the tape recorder which they had adapted for use in recording bird songs in the field.

Detailed information and diagrams were presented to show that anyone can set up a similar apparatus at a price no greater than that of a good camera, and that no more than average ability is required – but Mr. Hartwell did point out that the ideal situation is to have one ornithologist and one radio engineer for the working team. Their equipment can be used in the field, away from power lines, since it has been adapted, by means of a power converter, to work from 6-volt storage-battery power to provide the required 110-volt, 60-cycle current. Since a preamplifier is used, bird calls can be picked up at considerable distance from the microphone. The equipment is easily transported in an automobile.

It was suggested that there will be scientific value in bird-song recordings made by people in different localities, and that records may be filed and labeled, much like a collection of bird skins.

Advances in Song Studies

Advances in song studies and recording methods have been many and important, Dr. Peter Paul Kellogg of Ithaca emphasized. Early recordings called for bulky equipment, elaborate set-ups, and exacting conditions for operation. Today the story is different, and even more simple recording methods are on the way, he said. A new song record, of Florida birds and including the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, was announced by Dr. Kellogg.

Flash Photography

An ample amount and proper quality of light are required for good color photography of birds, Milton R. Goff of *Genesee Ornithological Society* pointed out. Photoflash lamps of both the conventional and electronic types answer the specifications. Mr. Goff described a basic two-lamp set-up in which the main front lighting is supplemented by a secondary back light, presented a graphical method for determining lamp position, and explained the use of simple artificial backgrounds to relieve the dark background so typical of most flash photographs.

Roosting Grosbeaks

How in a series of late afternoon and early morning observations he was able to track a flock of Evening Grosbeaks to their roost in woods miles from his feeding station was narrated by Stephen C. Fordham, Jr., of the *Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.* His paper also briefly reviewed the history of Evening Grosbeak movements in the northeast, particularly in this state, and presented observations and comments about the food, migration, meeting and roosting habits of the species.

The Snowy Owl

Some of the age-old superstitions about owls and some of the life history of the Snowy Owl were included in the paper prepared by Eleanor Roberts of *Watkins-Montour Bird Club.* There was, as well, a plea for complete protection of the Snowy Owl in this state.

FIFTH ANNUAL BANQUET — MAY 24, 1952

Guest speaker at the dinner at the Edison Club was Morris Mandel Cohn, City Manager of Schenectady. He spoke, however, not as manager but as New York State Commissioner and Chairman, Northeast Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, with "Water Conservation Policies in New York State" as his subject.

Mr. Cohn emphasized that water conservation — both protection of water sources and correction of pollution problems — is a subject of which state and national legislative bodies are well aware, and that each succeeding year will see real advancement in conservation. Conservationists must remain alert, he emphasized.

"Animals Are Exciting" was the subject of a new color film presented by Howard Cleaves. His story of the story behind the scenes was particularly interesting.

Mr. Cleaves was also the Hopper who presented membership cards to two new members of HOPS, Messrs. Kellogg and Brockner. Membership in HOPS, or Human Ornithological Perch Society to spell it out, is limited to those who have served as a perch for a mature, wild bird subject to no restraint.

Held over from the afternoon session was "Pause in Review" by Winston W. Brockner of *Buffalo Ornithological Society*. It included a variety of photographs showing field trips of all previous meetings.

Report on Federation papers and banquet adapted from Schenectady Bird Club, Inc. report on FEATHERS.—Ed.

THE RED-EYED VIREO AS A MOCKER

ALLEN H. BENTON
N. Y. S. College for Teachers, Albany, New York

The Red-eyed Vireo *vireo olivaceus* is known for the persistency of its song, rather than for quality. Some individuals, however, are accomplished singers and mockers. Bent (Life Histories of North American Wagtails, Shrikes, Vireos and their Allies, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 197:343. 1950.) noted references to imitations by this species of the Crested Flycatcher, Bluebird, and Olive-sider Flycatcher.

My first attention was called to this phenomenon in 1942, when I heard two birds, in widely separated localities in Central New York, imitating the song of the Wood Pewee. In the summer of 1952 my brother, Francis Benton, of Ira, Cayuga County, New York, called to my attention a Red-eyed Vireo in his yard. This individual imitated at least four other birds. Included in his repertoire were the double "tswee-tswee" note of the Goldfinch, startlingly different from any normal Vireo note, the two-noted call of the Bluebird, the down-slurred whistle of the Starling, and a double or triple note resembling the call note of the Robin. The Goldfinch note was most commonly used, occuring about once in five phrases. The other imitative notes were used irregularly. In this connection it might be of importance to note that the Goldfinches were abundant in the yard at that time, and it was necessary to trace the Vireo carefully to differentiate him from the Goldfinches. All the other birds imitated were present nearby.

Further observations were planned, but the bird disappeared in mid-June, and was not heard thereafter.

CONSERVATION NEWS AND NOTES

SAMUEL R. MADISON. *Chairman, Conservation Committee*

The annual meeting of the Conservation Committee was held in Schenectady on Friday evening, May 23, prior to the Fifth Annual Convention of the Federation. Your chairman is pleased to be able to report that six of the seven committee members attended the meeting. This is an excellent record, especially when it is remembered that the members are scattered throughout the State.

To date the activities of the committee have been mostly carried on by the chairman. This has been the result of the distances which separated the members of the committee and the fact that the committee has been meeting only once a year. This is very unsatisfactory because the full benefits of committee action — diversity of opinion and multiplicity of hand and minds to accomplish action — cannot be achieved under such circumstances. We took two important steps at our meeting to enable us to operate more as a committee. First of all we decided to meet twice a year. A meeting is temporarily scheduled for Saturday, November 1, 1952 at Syracuse. Not only is this a forward step for the Conservation Committee but it is one which may well be followed by other branches of the Federation. Secondly, various important activities of the committee were assigned to individual committee members.

The Committee discussed means of decreasing the present heavy toll of waterfowl from lead poisoning resulting from being wounded during the hunting season or introduction of lead shot by feeding in hunting areas. It was decided to study the possibility of substituting a non-poisonous shot for lead shot in shot-gun shells. This study has been undertaken by H. Everest Clements. He will study the available data on the present toll of waterfowl from lead poisoning and the technical and economic feasibility of substituting a non-poisonous pellet for lead, and report to the November meeting of the committee. Any assistance which you can give him in this undertaking will be greatly appreciated.

Our unsuccessful efforts to prevent the New York State Thru-way from crossing Montezuma have resulted in an incidental gain. In order to avoid a repetition of such difficulties, Bertram D. Tallamy, Superintendent of Public Works and head of the Thruway Commission, has appointed Clare E. Smith, an engineer in the Department of Public Works, to work with conservation organizations and obtain their views in advance. Mr. Tallamy has also asked Donald M. Tobey, President of the New York State Conservation Council, to appoint a committee representative of all conservation organizations in the State to work with the Department of Public Works and the Thruway Commission. Mr. Tobey invited the Federation to designate a representative to serve on that committee. The Conservation Committee, upon the recommendation of the chairman, recommended to the Federation Council at its meeting on May 24 that Mr. Clements be designated to represent the Federation on that committee. The Council followed the committee's recommendation and Mr. Clements is now serving on that committee.

Results of the 1952 Legislative Session

The bill which prohibits throwing or dumping of oil, acid, sludge, cinders or ashes into the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers from any vessel has been signed by the Governor and has become Chapter 760 of the Laws of 1952. The bill which would have set up regulation of timber cutting on private commercial lands died in committee, as expected. The Wood Duck bill which would have prohibited an open season on the Wood Duck or any species of Eider Duck before 1955, died in the Assembly Rules Committee, despite all our efforts to dislodge it. The Hammond-Ostrander constitutional amendment which would make it impossible to undertake a stream control project in the forest preserve without amendment to the Constitution, passed the Senate and Assembly. It must be passed again by both branches of the Legislature this fall and be approved by the voters at the general election in November 1953 in order to become effective.

NOTES AND NEWS FROM MEMBER CLUBS

NATURALISTS' CLUB (Binghamton, New York)

Founded in April, 1950, after Mrs. Marcelle Schubert placed an advertisement in a local paper asking for all interested in birds to attend a meeting at Harpur College, the *Naturalists' Club* of Binghamton, Johnson City, and Endicott has grown in stature and expanded its activities over its two year of existence.

Now boasting forty active members, the club sponsors monthly meetings, Audubon Screen Tour programs, the Binghamton Christmas Census and weekly local field trips, as well as occasional trips to distant birding territories. The club has also begun to systematize local bird records in cooperation with the State Federation's program of research.

BURROUGHS-AUDUBON NATURE CLUB

Burroughs-Audubon Nature Club of Rochester members have enjoyed a variety of interesting hikes this spring.

Mr. Richard Hughes, geologist, took the group to the kames, eskers, and kettle holes of Mendon Ponds Park on April 26 to give us a clear picture of how these land features were formed in glacial times. Ducks on the ponds and a Marsh hawk overhead added to the interest of guests and members.

May 18 the early morning bird hike began at Durand-Eastman Park and continued to Irondequoit Bay, Bushnells Basin and Burroughs-Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary. A total of 84 different birds was seen, including Yellow-throated, Red-eye, and Warbling Vireos, 15 Warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole, and 5 sparrows, including White-crowned and White-throated.

Dr. and Mrs. Edward T. Boardman of Rochester Museum led a procession of 16 cars to the south entrance of Bergen Swamp on Sunday, June 15. Visitors from Buffalo, Newfane, Binghamton, and Warsaw area were in the party for the early bird hike. Many birds were seen including both Cuckoos and 14 warblers. Late in afternoon a group of 3 saw 15 Turkey Vultures perched in a tree below Torpy Hill. Unusual flowers included

yellow ladyslipper, sundew, pitcher plant, wood lily, laborador tea, and twin flower. A redbellied snake, spotted and Muhlenberg's turtles belong in the day's list.

June 22 was set aside as Junior Day at the Sanctuary. After lunch, Carl Hedweiller led the group on an exploratory tour across the bog and back along the creek edge. Many interesting plants were seen, including four-leaved milkweed, pentstemon, galium, shrubbery cinquefoil, golden alexander, angelica, poison sumac and many ferns. Two birds of note were seen that day—Golden-winged Warbler and Brewster's Warbler.

Popularity of BANC hikes seems to have been enhanced this season perhaps because of such well-chosen leadership, or because of publicity in the Museum Association Summer Schedule.

Elizabeth Slater, Recording Secretary

BUFFALO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Near materialization at the present time are plans which have been developed during the past several months for a small wildlife sanctuary within the city limits of Buffalo. The project will be known as the Elmwood Avenue Wildlife Sanctuary and Conservation Workshop. It is to be sponsored jointly by Buffalo State Teachers College and the *Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc.,* with actual development of the property to be performed by the science students of the teachers college under the direction of Dr. John Urban of the Science Department.

The four-acre plot adjacent to Delaware Park lies along the north bank of Scajaquada Creek across Elmwood Avenue from the Buffalo Historical Society's museum building. This land has been unused for the past several years and is at the present time overgrown with brush. Tentative plans for development call for the planting of a hedge of Multiflora Rose along the street-side boundary to discourage vandalism. Planting will be made which will attract birds and other wildlife to the area. Re-introduction of plants formerly native to western New York will be attempted. Nature trails will be made through the area with labeled maps available to those who wish to identify the plantings. A small pond has been suggested for possible future development.

The great value of this tract lies in its proximity to State Teachers College which is situated directly across the creek from the project. Thus the land will be readily accessible to science classes, decreasing the need for more distant and time-consuming field trips. Here Dr. Urban hopes to be able to provide field demonstrations and experience for students in principles of conservation education — student who will be the public school teachers of tomorrow. The area will also be available to groups of teachers and students in the Buffalo school system who wish to avail themselves of this source of practical demonstration. It will also be available to other interested groups if properly supervised.

The tract is city-owned land. It is being leased to the two sponsoring parties at a nominal fee of one dollar per year. Ed Seeber and Gertrude Webster of the *Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc.,* and Dr. Urban of Buffalo State Teachers College were instrumental in the formulation of the plan, development of which has been aided by Dr. Harold Axtell of the Buffalo Museum of Science, Bill Almendinger, Harold Mitchell and the writer, of

the *Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc.,* and other interested persons.

There is one possible threat to the project. An arterial branch of the New York State Thruway system is being planned across the city of Buffalo. One of the proposed routes would bring the road along Scajaquada Creek, possible along the north bank. Plans for the more permanent elements of the sanctuary project must remain pending until the outcome of these plans is definitely known.

Gilbert B. Tybring, Jr.
Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc.

KEUKA PARK CONSERVATION CLUB

The *Keuka Park Conservation Club* held their annual Spring census Sunday, May 18, combining their observers with those from the *Eaton Bird Club* of Geneva. The area covered was primarily in the vicinity of Lake Keuka but scattered records were taken from the entire area covered by the club. 138 species were listed, with no rarities reported on a rather "average" day. Among the uncommon species for our territory were Carolina Wren, Blue gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Short-billed Marsh Wren and Olive-billed Flycatcher.

Francis H. Orcutt, President

NORTH COUNTRY BIRD CLUB

Four Whistling Swans were seen in the marshes near Ellisburg early in April and they remained for about ten days. These birds are sometimes seen here, but they are much less common than in the western part of the state.

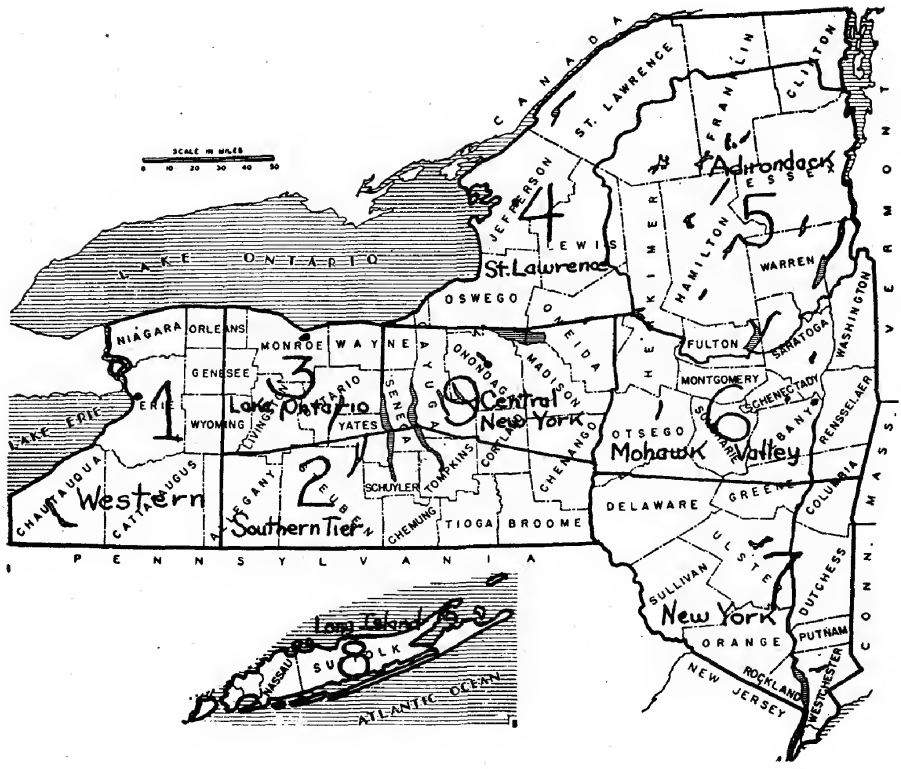
On June 15 we plan to visit Gull Island in Lake Ontario to see the gulls and other birds that nest there. This is the same place we visited two and three years ago and saw the Double-crested Cormorants. It is my belief that bird clubs should seek to have these birds protected at all times. Evidence indicates that these birds do little harm to fishing and also that they live mostly on stunted fish and those of little use to the fisherman and in this way really make the fishing better. The least we can do is to collect more evidence on the food of the Cormorants in Lake Ontario.

The North Country Bird Club will sponsor the Audubon Screen tours during the coming year. This is the first time that the screen tours have been brought to Watertown. The first is on October 4 when Telford H. Work will show "Bits of Land Along the Coast". Next is "Below the Big Bend", which is the topic of Allan Cruickshank on December 3. On March 21, G. Harrison Orions will show "Erie's Changing Shores".

Frank A. Clinch
Watertown, N. Y.

All members and member clubs are urged to send reports of club activities, projects or news to the Editor for inclusion in this section of THE KINGBIRD.

REGIONAL REPORTS OF SPRING MIGRATION



SUMMARY OF SPRING MIGRATION IN NEW YORK STATE

The 1952 spring season was characterized by its normality with most regions reporting arrivals on time and in fair numbers. There were few spectacular waves but throughout the state perhaps the most outstanding warbler movements occurred on May 9-11 (Western New York) and 17-20 (Hudson Valley). Most migration, however, was routine. A summary of some of the highlights follows:

Western New York reported 216 Whistling Swan March 30th near Oak Orchard. Over 500 Red-throated Loons on April 14 at Webster Park (Lake Ontario). Glossy Ibis was reported at Vischers Ponds (Mohawk Valley) on May 17-19, April 19 at Montezuma, and June 5 at Ellisberg (St. Lawrence).

A Yellow Rail was reported south of Ithaca April 25. Snowy Egret May 24, 25 at Braddocks Bay (Lake Ontario). Hawk flights were somewhat lighter this year in numbers recorded — 2800 Broad-wings April 22 and 1500 Sharp-shinned May 11(Lake Ontario). Fair shorebird flights were reported from Western New York somewhat early, to Long Island, normal.

Almost all regions reported a very low count on Bonaparte's Gulls especially in the western portion of the state where in other years large numbers have been reported on the Niagara River and Lake Ontario. Upland Plover appears to be extending its range with several reports of this species in Northern New York. Ring-billed Gull colonies are increasing on the Islands off Henderson Harbor, N. Y. Noted in every region was the apparent increase of Cuckoos especially Yellow-billed throughout the state. An interesting migration of Saw-whet Owls was observed in early April along Lake Ontario.

Finger Lakes reports an American Three-toed Woodpecker near Seneca Lake April 23. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was reported on May 18 (Lake Ontario).

Tufted Titmouse was reported from several locations such as Ithaca, Delmar, (Mohawk Valley) Bayside (Long Island) and Palmyra (Lake Ontario). A few return records of Brown-capped Chickadee noted along Lake Ontario shore to the end of May.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher seems to be moving up into New York State to stay as many regions reported the presence of, or nesting of this species. Most regions had a few good Warbler days, but generally the regions reported the waves were not spectacular. The Hudson Valley noted the scarcity of Black poll Warblers as did the Adirondack Region. Worm-eating Warblers were observed in the Elmira area, nesting June 4th, Lake Ontario and Hudson Valley. A new location for Prothonotary Warbler was at Chautauqua Lake (Western New York).

Summer Tanager from April 6-11 at Palisades was a big event (New York). Orchard Oriole is increasing slightly (Long Island) also seen at Ithaca and Ravena (Mohawk Valley). The returning Evening Grosbeaks were observed to leave most of the central and southern part of New York State from May 25-30. Lake Ontario Region reported migrants moving May 6, 11, 18, 24 and 25.

A Western Meadowlark was observed and heard singing from April 25-May 3 about 5 miles south of Rochester (Lake Ontario). White crowned Sparrows were particularly abundant throughout the state and appeared to outnumber White-throats this year. Another Dickcissel reported May 11th (Finger Lakes).

Allan S. Klonick

REGION 1 — WESTERN NEW YORK

Spring arrived in western New York as it should; with balmy weather and plenty of sunshine. During March, the temperature averaged 2.2 degrees above normal, with no storms occurring. On the first day of spring, the temperature reached 51 degrees, 20 degrees higher than last year. The March 31st record was tied with a sizzling 68 degrees. Ice was off Lake Erie and Niagara River unusually early. April was normal, except for a 4.4 degree above average temperature. May too, followed the pattern set by April. While May was about average, the migration was off. There seemed to be about only four good waves. The best one occurred on May 10th. White-crowned Sparrows overflowed everywhere. Little or no rain fell from the last week in May till the middle of June. The first weeks of June were about average. The Spring Duck Census in April turned up many early records, but the Spring Warbler Census in May broke all records for a high species total. A new location for the Prothonotary Warbler was turned up (Anderson) at the eastern end of Chautauqua Lake, where they are nesting. American Brant lingered in Niagara River (Canadian side) until the middle of June.

Loons — Ducks:

Common Loons were down in numbers, although 62 were found in the region on the Duck Census on April 6th. No Red-throated Loons reported. Grebes and herons were about normal, with a record of the American Egret at Lyndonville on April 4 (Smiths). The Whistling Swan migration was widely distributed throughout western New York. Many ponds and lakes entertained them. The maximum, 216, was logged on March 30th, on a **Buffalo Ornithological Society** trip from Buffalo to Oak Orchard Swamp near Medina. Oak Orchard Swamp continued to play host to great flocks of Canada Geese, fifteen thousand being found there on March 23. A Blue Goose spent three weeks at the swamp with the Canadas. A Gadwall by Rog. Sundell and Lenna, was spotted on April 12th, at Chautauqua's Riverside marshes. Blue-winged Teal are holding their own, but the Green-winged Teal is quite an item. Fourteen were found on March 30 at South Dayton (Griffins). European Widgeon showed up at two widely separated ponds. The Harlequin Duck lingered at Niagara Falls until April 6, when it was last spotted. Ruddy Duck are increasing.

Hawks — Owls:

The region witnessed a good hawk flight. Goshawk was reported on two different days in March. 204 Broad-winged Hawks were counted on a **Buffalo Ornithological Society** trip at Portland on April 20. On this same trip, a Golden Eagle was observed.

An early Golden Plover, March 29, was observed near Chautauqua Lake (Sundells et al). The rest of the spring shorebird migration was very good.

White-winged gulls cleared out by April 1st. Bonaparte's Gulls were down in numbers.

Swifts — Shrikes:

New locations continue to crop up for the Red-bellied Woodpecker. McIntyre found 1 at Frewsburg in southwestern New York, in March.

Flycatchers came in slowly, with Wood Pewees being late. The swallow migration was up; Cliff Swallows are increasing in the Conewango Valley, and Purple Martin seems to be higher in numbers. Most of the Brown-capped Chickadees had disappeared early.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were common, with good numbers being found late in May. Carolina Wrens are increasing. The Thrush movement was about average. Four Hermit Thrushes were listed on the Census of May 18th. More Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were noted than ever before, with nests being located. Ruby-crowned Kinglets persisted until late in May. Pipits were down. Cedar Waxwings were slow in coming back. Migrant Shrikes are still widely scattered.

Vireos — Wablers:

Red-eyed Vireos seem to be slighly down, but Warbling Vireos up.

The warbler migration was spotty and slow, but in the end few species were missed. Thirty species and one hybrid (Brewster's) were counted on the May 18th Census. Prothonotaries were not found at Oak Orchard until June 1 (Brockner), with numbers down. Golden-wings and Blue-wings still increase, with an attendant increase in the numbers of Brewster's. Tennessee Warblers were noticeable throughout May. The first Myrtle Warbler, April 12, was found by Rog. Sundell and Lenna at Riverside. Black-poll Warblers were later than usual. An increase in Chats was noted.

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

The blackbird flight was heavy. Orchard Orioles continue to spread in adjacent Ontario.

The sparrow flight was very good. Cardinals are now permanently established throughout the region. Indigo Buntings arrived late. Evening Grosbeaks lingered almost up to June in various spots. Purple Finches were down. During March, Pine Grosbeaks were located in several places. Goldfinches were late in arriving, but came in big numbers when they did. Henslow's Sparrows are on the increase, while Grasshopper Sparrows seem to be down. The White-crown, White-throat migration was unprecedented, the biggest ever. Lincoln's Sparrows were found in good numbers. Thompson found 20 Snow Buntings on March 18, at Castile.

Winston Wm. Brockner
63 Ardmore Pl.
Buffalo 13, N. Y.

REGION 2 — SOUTHERN TIER (PART 1)

(With some records from adjacent regions)

The migration in our area this spring was outstanding only in its normality. In spite of the general coolness of the season, all birds appeared promptly on schedule, with no noticeable tendency to lateness.

This is the last regional report the writer will be able to submit. We are fortunate in having a most excellent observer in this region who has agreed to write these reports in the future. All correspondence formerly directed to the writer should now be sent to Mrs. Southgate Hoyt, Etna, New York.

Loons — Ducks:

American Egret—Now regular in spring in small numbers at Montezuma. Our first date this year was April 27 (Gordon).

Black-crowned Night Heron—The colony at Vestal had at least 26 nests, some with young, on May 26 (Rising). This area will be destroyed by the new Harpur College building project.

American Bittern—April 7, an early date, near Johnson City (Bemont).

Glossy Ibis—One seen at Montezuma April 19 (Cook and Layne).

Whistling Swan—Ithaca, March 28 (Chambers and Ficken); Johnson City, April 5 (Rising and Sheffield). Both records of single birds.

Hawks — Owls:

Yellow Rail—Reliable records of this elusive species from inland New York are all too few. One was seen under excellent conditions at Larch Meadows, just south of Ithaca, on April 25 (Connor).

Glaucous Gull—An individual lingered at Ithaca until May 18, and was seen by hundreds of observers. Our only other comparable record is of a Glaucous Gull seen May 19, 1940.

Cuckoos—All observers agree that the Cuckoos, especially the Yellow-billed, are particularly abundant this year, especially in contrast to the low numbers of the past few years. The Black-billed appeared at Danby on May 9 (Parkes) and the Yellow-billed at Ithaca on May 12 (Morley and Taylor).

Swifts — Shrikes:

Red-headed Woodpecker—Considered quite uncommon in our region in recent years. Greater number of reports this spring indicate a possible increase in abundance.

Red-bellied Woodpecker—Although a regular nesting species at the northern end of the Cayuga Lake Basin, this bird is rare at the southern end. One was seen near Beebe Lake, Ithaca, on March 31 (Dudley).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher—This species is a regular migrant in our area, but is seldom reported. Besides the obvious identification difficulties, one reason for the paucity of records may be that its migration period is so late that many observers are in the field less often than during the general height of migration. Records this year include May 16 (early) and May 30 at Johnson City (Bemont), and several from Ithaca, May 30 and various early June dates (Allen).

Tree Swallow—One seen at Montezuma on March 21 represents an early date (Trever and Connor).

Tufted Titmouse—Although seen almost daily at Stewart Park, Ithaca, during the spring, no nest was located. It still seems certain that we will get a local breeding record, as the species seems to have established itself in our area just as did the Gnatcatcher a few years ago.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—Seen at Johnson City at the same spot from April 23 through June 1. Probably breeding (Bemont and Rising).

Vireos — Warblers:

Prothonotary Warbler—Nest found again at Montezuma. Still only the one pair has been seen here.

Worm-eating Warbler—This species has been known as a summer resident of the Elmira region for years, but few nests have actually been found. A nest with six eggs was photographed by Professor Allen on June 4. The eggs have since hatched. The species is very rare elsewhere in the region. One was seen at Johnson City on May 16 (Bemont).

Blue-winged Warbler—Still a very rare bird in the region, but becoming somewhat more regular. One, possibly two at Lake Como on May 18 (Gibbs).

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

Orchard Oriole—Rare and irregular in the region. One at Stewart Park, Ithaca, on May 15 (Gibbs).

Evening Grosbeak—The latest report from the region seems to be a single bird seen at Ithaca on May 30 (Mrs. Fay). According to Mrs. Hoyt, most of our local Grosbeaks left during the weekend of May 25.

Purple Finch—Several observers have commented on the abundance of this species this spring.

Kenneth C. Parkes
Ithaca, New York

REGION 2 — SOUTHERN TIER (PART 2)

A dozen to fifteen members of the Keuka Park Conservation Club who have birds as a primary interest, get together at the end of each month to make up a list of species seen by all during the month, the list being published each month in the Penn Yan Chronicle-Express. The area covered is limited to the Keuka Lake watershed, including also a small area immediately contigous to the outlet into Seneca Lake at Dresden. The club is engaged in mapping the bird habitats of the area in conformity with the general plan of cartography outlined by the state organization.

In the past two years there have been some noticeable changes in open field habitats about Keuka Lake, especially several miles back on the uplands. A great deal more land is being brought under cultivation for potato culture, buckwheat and wheat; farms that a few years ago could be listed as abandoned land have been plowed and crops put in. This has brought about a marked lessening in numbers of Bobolinks, Henslow's, Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows.

There is a definite scarcity of Sparrow Hawks and Kingbirds along the roadsides of this region. On the other hand, Red-shouldered Hawks are reported here and there in increased numbers, and I have noted more Yellow-billed Cuckoos and Bluebirds this season than in several years. A male Red-breasted Merganser and a male American Merganser spent the month of May on the Branchport marsh, and the latter is still there at this writing, June 15. Both appeared unable to fly, for they would merely swim out of the way of passing rowboats. Also on the evening of June 15, an immature Bald Eagle was over the marsh for a while.

Notes from **Chemung Valley Audubon Society** include Prairie Warbler May 13, Worm-eating Warbler nesting at Elmira (H. C. York) and a sight record of Oregon Junco March 29 and 30.

Charles Spiker
Branchport, N. Y.

REGION 3 — LAKE ONTARIO

Spring has been unusually pleasant in this region this year. The weather was fair a large part of the time and there was little to upset the routine arrival and departure of migrants. The temperature has averaged slightly better than normal and rainfall slightly less.

Up until May the migration was good in most respects, but unspectacular. During May however a good many unusual records turned up, most of which are mentioned below. The last migrants appear to have passed through during the first week of June and local residents have settled down to their summer job—raising a family.

Loons — Ducks:

On April 14th the Kemnitzers reported over 500 Red-throated Loons off Webster Park. This is startling since they usually occur here in small numbers. There are three dates for Double-crested Cormorant between mid-April and mid-May. A Snowy Egret was at Braddock's Bay on May 24 and 25 (Barry, Kemnitzer et al). This is only the second Rochester record.

One Whistling Swan was still present at Braddocks Bay on May 30th. A few Blue Geese but no Snow Geese were seen this year. Two or three European Widgeon turned up; one as late as May 18th. Gadwall were scarce. Red-breasted Merganser reached a peak of 12,000 on April 27th. This species seems to pass through in larger numbers each year. Late Ducks include: Golden-eye on May 30th (McKinney), White-winged Scoter, May 18th (Listman, et al), Pintail and Baldpate, June 7th (Nelson O'Hara).

Hawks — Owls:

The number of migrant hawks reported was less this year than in other recent years. Weather conditions and less intense coverage may be the reasons.

Two Goshawks were reported, (Barry-Kemnitzer) as well as one Golden Eagle, (Barry) all in mid-April. Over 2,800 Broadwings on April 22 and 1,500 Sharp shins on May 11th, were peak numbers.

Of the shore birds the most noteworthy included: Two very early records of Pectoral Sandpipers, on April 1st (1 bird) and 6th (8 birds) Willet on May 25th (Bieber)at Braddocks Bay; White-rump; Knot; and Hudsonian Curlew (Nelson-O'Hara) at Shore Acres on June 7th.

Three White-winged Gulls; Iceland, Kumliens, and Glaucous, were seen from the Andrews St. bridge in downtown Rochester in mid-April. Bonaparte's Gull appeared on March 24th and was still present on June 7th (1 immature bird). Caspian Terns were more numerous than usual this spring.

It was a good year for Owls. Noteworthy was the decided influx of Saw-Whet Owls along the lake shore in early April. Up to 10 were reported in one day (Barry-Listman). Whether or not this movement is a regular one is a question local observers would like to answer.

Swifts — Shrikes

An early Chimney Swift appeared on April 10th (Listman), and an early Purple Martin on April 5th (Dolan-O'Hara). A Tufted Titmouse is said to have been present at Palmyra for some time this spring and I understand that this is not the first record there. It is a decidedly rare bird here, but perhaps will extend its range in this area as it has elsewhere. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Carolina Wren may both be nesting in the same woodland in Chili (Listman). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers appeared by May 3rd and nested again at Reed Rd. and probably at Scottsville. A very interesting return movement of Brown-capped

Chicadees along the Lakeshore continued until the end of May. Numbers were small but it may fit in with the pattern of reports from Toronto and elsewhere. Olive-sided and Acadian Flycatcher were both reported in late May and very early in June. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was reported on May 18th flying along the Lakeshore (B. Kemnitzer, McKinney). It was seen briefly and did not perch, but observers agreed this bird could hardly have been anything else. This is a new species for this area.

Vireo — Warblers:

All the regular vireos passed through in normal numbers. Blue-headed seemed a shade late, White-eyed was unreported. Prothonotary Warbler again is reported nesting at Oak Orchard (McKinney). Orange-crowned Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush were unreported. Most unusual reports were Worm-eating Warbler, May 11th, Reed Rd. (Taylor-Klonick); Prairie Warbler, Island Cottage, May 17, 18 (McKinney); Kentucky Warbler, Pellett Rd. May 25th (Kemnitzers); Connecticut Warbler, Island Cottage, May 11th (A. Tanghe-D. Miller-Dobson), and Yellow-br. Chat, Island Cottage, May 11th (L. Tanghe). Twenty Wilson's Warblers were reported in one area on May 28th (O'Hara). The best warbler days apparently were May 10th, 11th, and 20th. Some days at the end of the month were also good for later species.

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

A Western Meadowlark was discovered by Listman on Henrietta Rd. at new Thruway on Apr. 25th and remained until May 3rd, singing regularly. It's song was wire recorded. Evening Grosbeaks were reported migrating along the Lakeshore in small numbers on May 6, 11, 18, 24, and 25th. There were virtually the only reports since the influx of last Oct.-Nov. A Pine Grosbeak was reported on May 18 (H. Dakin), and the last Redpolls were seen on April 20th. Pine Siskins were present in small numbers from May 10th-25th. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Nelson's ?) was seen at Roses' Marsh on May 31st (O'Hara-Dolan); a late Junco remained until May 30-31 at Manitou. Lincoln's Sparrows were reported frequently from May 10-25 with a maximum of 10 in one day, (Listman et al).

Richard T. O'Hara
Rochester 9, N. Y.

REGION 4 — ST. LAWRENCE

In general the spring of 1952 was cooler than normal. Migrants, however, arrived on time or nearly so. Two early spring migration waves were noted, one on March 21, the other April 2.

Loons — Ducks:

The spring flight of ducks was good, increases being noted in the following: Baldpate, Old Squaw, Ring-necked Duck.

A Snow Goose was found dead in a muskrat trap near Moira, Franklin Co., on March 29.

A Glossy Ibis was seen on June 5 by J. E. Wilson near Ellisburg in southern Jefferson County.

Whistling Swan—Several seen during April along eastern end of Lake Ontario.

Double-crested Cormorants—Two June 1, Sandy Pond (Scheider et al).

Hawks — Owls:

Piping Plover—One seen April 20 at Sandy Pond.

Ruddy Turnstone—Four on Little Galloo Island June 8. Two at Sandy Pond June 1 (Scheider et al).

Knot—Three at Sandy Pond June 1 (Scheider et al).

Upland Plover—On the increase, seen in eight different localities between April 22 and June 12.

Sanderling—One in winter plumage, Sandy Pond June 1 (Scheider et al).

Black Tern—Now very common in suitable habitats.

Common Tern—Large breeding colony on Little Galloo Island, possible 1000 pairs.

Ring-billed Gull—Colony on Little Galloo estimated at 25000 pairs.

Turkey Vulture—One near Perch Lake May 1 (J. E. Wilson).

Vireos — Warblers:

Myrtle Warbler—Henderson Harbor, April 3 (early).

Hooded Warbler—June 1, Selkirk Shores (**Onondaga Audubon Society**) one singing male.

Mourning Warbler—June 1, Selkirk Shores (**O. A. S.**) singing male.

Pine Warbler—June 1, Council Grove on Salmon River (**O. A. S.**)

John B. Belknap
Gouverneur, N. Y.

REGION 5 — ADIRONDACK

April was about average in temperature. May was definitely cooler than normal. A 26 day period without rainfall in late April and early May kept vegetation retarded — lilacs are just past their prime as I write this on June 17.

Killdeer—None seen in central Adirondacks this spring.

Olive-sided Flycatcher—This bird is again scarce in Saranac Lake area this year. Its numbers have been down for three years now.

Brown Thrasher—Reported at Tupper Lake by Dr. Kingsbury May 15, 18 and June 4. This is a rare bird in the central Adirondacks.

Philadelphia Vireo—Reported May 18 and 23 at Tupper Lake by Dr. Kingsbury. Seldom reported here in spring.

Warbler—Several observers have commented on the scarcity of Warblers in this area. This spring, such reports come from Essex and Keeseville. I have personally noted total absence of Black-palls this spring—same report from Tupper Lake. The latter also reports no Bay-breasted, Palm and Mourning. There were relatively small flights on the nights of May 9-10, 10-11 and 17-18.

Evening Grosbeak—Most of winter population gone by late April. A few birds still around at end of May. Season has been otherwise normal.

Gordon M. Meade, M. D.
Trudeau, N. Y.

REGION 6 — MOHAWK VALLEY

March weather was about average, but April was warmer and May colder than usual, both months having considerably greater than average rainfall. Ponds and marshs had high water, and flooding of Vischers Ponds by the Conservation Department gives indications of a change to greater numbers and variety of shore and water birds. A wave of shore birds here was unusual in spring.

Vischers Ponds contributed three very unusual records: A Glossy Ibis was seen here May 17, 18 and 19 (Moore et al), first record. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron here on a May 24 Convention field trip was the second local record, and a rare male European Widgeon spent at least fourteen days here, first seen April 6 (Stone). The first authenticated local record of Tufted Titmouse was obtained near Delmar March 31 (Mrs. Grace).

Loons — Ducks:

One Holbaell's Grebe April12 at Tomhannock Reservoir. A scarce Double-crested Cormorant was seen on the May 17 Century Run. Mute Swan, previously reported, was seen repeatedly at Scotia Channels through April 13. Two rarities at Vischers Ponds, Gadwall April 13 to 20, and two Shovelers May 18 (Stone). Two male Barrow's Golden-eyes at Saratoga Lake March 13, apparently becoming less rare. Flocks of White-winged Scoters at Niskayuna and Alcove Reservoir May 18 (Tucker).

Hawks — Owls:

Turkey Vulture was seen May 17; seldom-recorded Pigeon Hawk at Ravena May 18 (Tucker). Only two records of American Coot, April 13 and May 25. Semi-palmated Plover seen May 17 and 25, irregular in spring. First record of Ruddy Turnstone since 1933, five on May 25. Upland Plover was reported May 4 at Sparrowbush Road (Tucker). First spring records of Red-backed Sandpiper May 24 and 25, and also first spring record of Dowitchers, flock of twenty-one on May 18 (Stone). Bonaparte's Gull, scarce, May 24; and several Black Terns May 25.

Swifts — Shrikes:

Olive-sided Flycatcher, a rare transient, recorded May 30 at Karner. Cliff Swallows have become relatively common in various areas. There was a good flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches.

Vireos — Warblers:

Worm-eating Warbler is present at both Ravena and Indian Ladder. Both Blue-winged and Brewster's Warbler were seen May 17; Tennessee and Cape May Warblers were abundant the two middle weeks of May. Palm Warbler was unusually scarce this year, only one record. One Chat was reported, May 17.

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

Orchard Oriole, a rare summer resident, was seen near Ravena May 11 and 17. Two records of Cardinal, a male at Altamont, and a female previously reported at Loudonville stayed on to March 12 (French). May 17 was the last recorded date for Evening Grosbeaks. Two hundred Red Crossbills were seen at the Helderberg Escarpment March 7 (Kennedy).

Frazer R. Turrentine
Schenectady, N. Y.

REGION 7 — NEW YORK

The most prolonged migration in avian history passed through the lower Hudson Valley this year. And the same weekend rainstorms that attenuated the migration period plagued the birders, despite which **Rockland Audubon Society** parties turned in one-day lists of 93 each on May 10 and 11 and 99 species on May 23. Between 1.5 in. and 2 in. of rain fell each weekend from Apr. 26-27 through May 30-June 1. On June 1, the weather station at Bear Mountain noted 3.54 in. of rain from midnight to 3 p. m.—and more fell after 3 p. m.

The migration appeared to break into three pronounced crests. An early wave about Apr. 19-24 (when temperatures were steadily in the high 70s) brought migrants ahead of dates that had stood in the record boowks for as much as 20 years. Another big wave flooded the Rockland County area on May 8-11, and a third and biggest wave on May 20-25.

Loons — Ducks:

The first Green Heron arrived Apr. 19 (former record, Apr. 28, 1935). Black-crowned Night Heron was also early on Apr. 12. Frank and Ruth Steffens discovered a Least Bittern at Congers Lake on May 10, and this supposedly extremely rare bittern also turned up at Piermont marsh, May 23 and May 28. A very late American Merganser was seen flying over Piermont marsh May 23 (former record, May 5, 1947).

Hawks — Owls:

The spring hawk flight was most disappointing. A Broad-Wing lingered near Blauvelt till May 23, a week later than normally, though there have been several June records. Ruffed Grouse seem to be broadening their distribution; Ring-necked Pheasants in the wild are a scarcer bird than ever before. A few each of Virginia Rail and Sora were found at Piermont marsh; the latter had never been recorded there until last autumn. A late date for the Great Black-backed Gull at Iona Island, near Bear Mountain, on Apr. 27 (John C. Orth); the former record was Apr. 12, 1936. Yellow-billed Cuckoos far outnumbered Black-billed Cuckoos in May, breaking their usual parity.

Swifts — Shrikes:

Whip-poor-will was a week early, Apr. 20 (Betty Fox). Chimney Swift also gained three days, Apr. 23 (Homer S. Kelsey). Traill's Flycatcher continues to appear in more localities, apparently remaining to breed. In Rockland County, its habitat coincides pretty much with Warbling Vireo territory, though it does skip the village shade trees the vireo favors. Rough-winged Swallows were found nesting, June 2, in the crevices of a tunnel through which Hackensack Creek passes under a railroad embankment. Bank Swallows were more numerous than usual on migration. The last Red-breasted Nuthatch of a banner winter season was on May 5 (Robert and Louise Deed). Carolina Wren is established at least in Upper Nyack and the southern end of Haverstraw, after having been absent for 15 years or more.

Vireos — Warblers:

Generally speaking, it was a big spring for Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Canada, Magnolia, and Wilson's Warblers, a poor season for Red-eyed Vireo, Black-throated Green Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, and Blackpoll Warbler. Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos were relatively abundant, outnumbering the Red-eye until after May 20. Early date for the Yellow-throated Vireo was Apr. 23 (Ruth Steffens); the old date was May 6, 1937. Mrs. Steffens also reported the Blue-headed Vireo a week early, on Apr. 18.

Worm-eating Warbler, a breeding species, showed a nice gain in numbers. An exceptionally early date for the Parula Warbler, Apr. 19, on a South Nyack street (Deed); former record, May 2, 1934. Cape May Warbler was reported twice, as was Tennessee Warbler; both are quite rare here. An early Black-throated Green Warbler, Apr. 22, six days ahead of the old date. Bay-breasted Warblers were commoner than usual, starting with an early record on May 11, five days ahead of time (Mr. and Mrs. Steffens). Blackpoll Warbler didn't appear in large numbers until May 28, though a few had trickled through with early waves; their movement seemed to have skipped this area by night flying, for not many were noted. An Ovenbird beat the old early date by three days, and Mr. and Mrs. William G. Irving found a Louisiana Waterthrush on the startling date of Apr. 6 (old record, Apr. 18, 1935). Mourning Warbler was found twice, singing each time, May 23 and May 31, setting new early and late records. Canada Warbler arrived early, Apr. 23 (Dr. Marjorie R. Hopper, Eugene R. Brown), five days ahead of the old record.

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

A big event of the spring was discovery of a Summer Tanager, in yellow plumage with rusty tinge to the tail, on Apr. 6 (Betty Fox, Edmond Barron) at the New Jersey line near Palisades. The date is far in advance of arrival time even in Maryland and Delaware, but 75-mile gales and a series of tornadoes had struck north as far as Maryland on Apr. 5; local birders assume the Tanager was driven by the storm. Its bedraggled plumage for the first two days bore out this theory. The bird was last seen by Miss Fox on Apr. 11.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak was more than a week early, Apr. 23 (Brown). The last Pine Grosbeak was reported by Miss Fox on Apr. 3. A late date for the rare White-crowned Sparrow was May 23, three birds at Piermont. A White-throated Sparrow remained till May 28 (Brown).

Robert F. Deed
Nyack, N. Y.

REGION 8 — LONG ISLAND

Spring migration was characterized by an influx of early dates among migrants along the coast or slightly inland. After two warm days in early spring, the weather remained cool, bird movements were fairly on time or slightly late as the general breeding populations arrived. Cool weather stayed on well into May; most weekends were wet, retarding bird observations. There were no remarkable flight days, but there was a gradual movement throughout the spring season. 120 species were recorded on an island-wide trip, May 6 (Wm. Reid).

Loons — Ducks:

The Loon flight was regular; last Holboell's Grebe, Zach's Bay, April 20. Maximum Gannet flight around mid-April; there were five or six European Cormorant reports in mid-March. Snowy Egret arrived at Lawrence, April 23; several American Egret reports in April, May; eight Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Jones Beach, May 18. There was a flock of 14 Snow Geese flying over Lake Success, April 27; last European Teal, one at Jones Beach, April 16. Shoveller and Ruddy Ducks remained on western Long Island into early May.

Hawks — Owls:

Few or no Turkey Vulture reports; one Bald Eagle, May 13 at Manhasset. Good report of Rails at Lawrence; both Yellow and Black Rails seen and calling within an hour on April 19 (Mayer, Rose); calling Sora at Idlewild same day and King Rail seen at Lawrence, April 24 and April 28. Several Florida Gallinule reports on Western Long Island. There was a rather good flight of shore birds; an early Upland Plover, March 28 at Montauk; Lesser Yellow-legs were reported from several locations and two Curlew Sandpipers at Pennsylvania Avenue flats, Jamaica Bay on May 2. Otherwise very few rarities; several Lesser Yellow-legs, no Stilt Sandpipers or Phalaropes were reported. A Pomarine Jaeger was seen chasing Terns near the Atlantic Beach jetty, May 25 (J. Bull). Several Roseate Tern reports, but no Black or Caspian Tern records. A very early Yellow-billed Cuckoo was observed at Manhasset, April 19 (J. Ricks); otherwise other Cuckoo records were slightly late.

Swifts — Shrikes:

There was a rather poor Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will flight; Red-headed Woodpecker was reported daily at Seaford from May 3 to end of period (E. Morgan). First Olive-sided Flycatcher, Far Rockaway, May 16; only one or two Cliff Swallow reports, first May 4; there was a Tufted Titmouse, rare on Long Island, at Bayside, May 6, and a Bewick's Wren at Prospect Park, April 15-18 (several observers). A Mockingbird was singing at Merrick, May 13; early Veery at Jones Beach, April 20; maximum Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, three at Seaford, April 28 (E. Morgan).

Warblers — Sparrows:

Warbling and Yellow-throated Vireos were reported from western Long Island. Hybrid warblers were practically unreported; several Worm-eating, Golden-winged and Hooded Warbler reports; Yellow-throated Warbler, Prospect Park, April 23 (G. Caleton). The Bobolink flight was light; first Orchard Oriole, Jones Beach, May 4; this species slightly more frequently reported than for past several years; late Evening Grosbeak, Prospect Park, May 2; early Indigo Buntnig, one at Gilgo, April 18 ,19 (Elliott); also one, Short Beach, April 20 (Carleton, Grant, Mayer). Maximum Ipsich Sparrow, four, Gilgo, March 22; last one seen, same place, April 12 (Elliott, Mayer, Rose). White-crowned Sparrow came through in mid-May with a maximum of 12 on western Long Island during the weekend of May 10, 11; there were one or two Lincoln Sparrow reports; Fox Sparrow left early, but there were one or two Tree Sparrow records in late April.

John J. Elliott
Seaford, Long Island, New York

REGION 9 — FINGER LAKES

Loons — Ducks:

Loons scarce. Cormorants seen in groups of few to 100 birds on Oneida Lake. Few records of Least Bittern but American Bittern seen in about usual numbers. Several Whistling Swans seen at Montezuma marsh this spring and a single bird in marsh south of Marion on April 17. Canada Geese (up to 2000) at Montezuma but numbers diminished sharply by early May. Baldpate and Pintail population seems to be down. Canvasback, Redhead, Scaups and Mergansers present in fair numbers, possibly somewhat below average. Only scattered reports of White-winged or other scoters. One Harlequin Duck reported early this spring in river near Owego, but unverified to reporter. 14 Ruddy Ducks at Montezuma on May 11 and a Glossy Ibis reported by several observers during the last week in April.

Hawks — Owls:

Most hawks observed in about usual numbers. 2 Pigeon Hawks seen at Montezuma Marsh on May 11 and a late migrating Broad-wing on May 30. Shore birds present in average numbers. Upland Plover appears to be nesting in the Syracuse area. From about May 20 to June 8 Least, Baird's, Semi-palmated, Red-backed Sandpipers common at Geneva and other points. 51 Ruddy Turnstones observed on Long Pier (Geneva) May 30. Herring and Ring-billed Gulls present in about usual numbers but Bonaparte's less common than some seasons. Common Terns in small numbers are remaining later than usual on Seneca Lake. One Iceland Gull reported near Fulton on March 16.

Cuckoos quite common this year—the Yellow-billed being about twice as abundant as the Black-billed. Tent caterpillars, cankerworms and other leaf-eating species of caterpillars, a common source of food, are unusually abundant in some sections of the state this year. Barn Owl nested again in church steeple at Waterloo. Few reports of Whip-poor-will this spring but Nighthawk common as usual, even though a bit late in its appearance. Red-headed Woodpecker appears to be breeding at Cayuga Lake State Park near Syracuse (apparently a new location).

One American three toed Woodpecker observed for ½ day at Clarks Point, Seneca Lake on April 22. Other species seen in about average numbers. Olivsided Flycatcher (1) at Syracuse on May 29 (several dozen reported in Adirondacks the same date) and 25 Yellow-bellied. 2 Cliff Swallows nesting areas observed—1 near Syracuse and another just north of Mexico. Late date of Red-breasted Nuthatch on May 18. Brown Creeper reports scarce. Good flights of Winter Wren —extended up to early or mid-May. Carolina Wren seen carrying nesting material in Geneva between May 11 and 18 but last seen on June 6. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, possibly breeding, in Camillus Valley May 18. Red-eyed Vireo nesting at High Banks on Seneca Lake (4 eggs in nest on June 8). **Warblers — Sparrows:**

Warbler migration, while a few days behind last year's dates, was quite pronounced in the Geneva area and reached a high point on May 17 but by the morning of May 18 practically all of them had moved on. All species listed or expected in the Geneva territory were seen in numbers except Pine, Palm, Yellow Palm, Parula, Wilson, Connecticut and Hooded. The Mourning warbler (singing) and seen in Geneva on June 8 and heard singing near Williamson June 13 (latter record by H. S. Peters, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service). In Syracuse area Black and White, Tennessee, Parula, Magnolia, Cerulean, Blackburnian and Mourning were seen in or above average numbers while La. Waterthrush, N. Yellowthroat, Ovenbird, Bay-breasted, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated blue and greens, Myrtle, Cape May and Wilson's were only in average, or below, numbers.

One Bohemian Waxwing (Gambrell's) seen at close range in Pine Plains region on June 1; (100 or more cedar waxwings present in same area on this date). Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Cardinal, Scarlet Tanger quite common. Evening Grosbeak seen up to May 11. Siskins, Crossbills and Redpolls very scarce this spring. Henslow, White-crowned, and Lincoln's Sparrows reported on increase in Syracuse area — other species in about usual numbers. All except the Lincoln's Sparrow fairly common to abundant in the Geneva area. White-crowned Sparrows generally more abundant than White throated Sparrows in the Geneva territory — this is somewhat unusual in this territory. The appearance of and date of continued migration seemed to coincide quite closely with the blooming of dandelion which appears to be one of their favorite food plants. 1 female Dickcissel observed on May 11 (Harftzell, Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Gambrell).

Foster L. Gambrell
Geneva, N. Y.

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